

Representative Terri Austin

Here are the days I'll be in your community!

Staying in touch with the people I serve is one of my most important jobs as our State Representative. Listed below are the days I will be in your community to meet with you on any issues or concerns that you may want to bring to my attention. Of course, if you aren't able to visit with me on these days, you are

always welcome to contact me either by phone or email.

- Elwood**—Sunday, January 29; Elwood Chamber of Commerce Office; 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Atlanta**—Friday, February 4; Atlanta Town Hall; 10 to noon
- Arcadia**—Friday, February 11; Arcadia Town Hall; 10 to noon
- Alexandria**—Saturday, February 12; Alexandria Public Library; 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Don't Miss Out on the Earned Income Tax Credit!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or modest incomes. Single or married people who worked full- or part-time at some point in 2004 can qualify for the EITC, depending on their income. Even those who care for stepchildren, grandchildren, adopted children as well as brothers, sisters, stepbrothers or stepsisters may qualify for EITC. Qualifying children must live with the worker for more than half of the year.

For more information on the EITC call my office at 800-382-9842.



2005 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY



The following questions are based on issues that we may discuss in the current legislative session and are not necessarily a reflection of my opinion on a particular issue. **I value your input and hope you will take time to complete the survey.** You can mail this survey back to me by detaching at left and folding it in half. You and a second person of your household may also complete this survey online at www.in.gov/H36.

1. During the 2005 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly will pass a biennial state budget for 2005-2007. How should the following areas be prioritized for allocations in the new budget? (Please rank using 1 as high, 6 as low.)
- ☐ **A.** Education (K-12 and Higher Education) ☐ **B.** Health Care ☐ **C.** Tax Relief for Hoosiers
☐ **D.** Job Creation and Economic Development ☐ **E.** Balancing the budget
☐ **F.** Other (Please specify) _____

2. If government spending is cut to help balance the state budget, where would you prefer to see the cuts made? (Please rank using 1 as high, 6 as low.)
- ☐ **A.** Medicaid and other support services ☐ **B.** K-12 Education ☐ **C.** Higher Education
☐ **D.** Corrections Programs ☐ **E.** Public Safety
☐ **F.** Other (please specify) _____

3. Currently, property taxes generate approximately \$5.6 billion statewide to support local units of government, including cities, towns, counties, townships, local fire and police protection, schools and libraries. If the legislature moves to reduce or eliminate property taxes, how would you prefer to make up the loss in revenue that is needed to support these critical services? (May select more than one answer.)
- ☐ **A.** Increase sales tax (currently 6 cents on every dollar) ☐ **B.** Increase income tax (currently 3.4% of adjusted gross income)
☐ **C.** Increase corporate taxes ☐ **D.** Use additional revenue from gaming
☐ **E.** Reduce or eliminate township government ☐ **F.** Raise no taxes. Cut local services to live within our means
☐ **G.** Give local units of government the ability to enact local option taxes
☐ **H.** Consolidate selected services at the city, town and county level to eliminate duplication of services, areas of waste and inefficiency

4. Should legislation be enacted that would support city or town government working in partnership with county government to implement a regional approach to economic development? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

5. Do you support legislation that would enable small businesses in Indiana to pool their resources in order to get more affordable health care, including insurance and prescription drug coverage? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

6. Would you support creation of an amnesty program that enables individuals and companies to pay back taxes to the state without penalty? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** If yes, how long would you recommend extending their repayment opportunity?
- ☐ **A.** 6 months ☐ **B.** 6 to 12 months ☐ **C.** 12 to 18 months ☐ **D.** 18 to 24 months

7. Currently, Indiana's open container law prohibits a driver from possessing an open container of alcohol while driving a motor vehicle. Should Indiana's open container law be changed to prohibit any open alcoholic beverage in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

8. Do you support a pay raise for?
- A.** State employees ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **B.** Judges ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
C. Prosecuting Attorneys ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **D.** Legislators ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

9. Should Indiana observe daylight-saving time (DST)? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
If yes, which option do you prefer? ☐ **Eastern Daylight Time (New York)** ☐ **Central Daylight Time (Chicago)** ☐ **No preference**

10. Do you support full-day kindergarten in Indiana? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
If yes, would you prefer to see it made mandatory or voluntary? ☐ **Mandatory** ☐ **Voluntary**

11. Would you support a plan to give teaching graduates in Indiana assistance in paying off their student loans if they agree to remain in the state and work in Indiana schools? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12. The burden of governmental regulations that are unnecessary and over reaching at the federal and state level is a major concern of small businesses. It has been estimated that small businesses with less than 20 employees spend nearly \$7,000 each year, per employee, just to comply with federal and state mandates. (In comparison, large businesses with more than 500 employees spend \$4,463 per employee complying with the same mandates.)

- A.** Should Indiana enact legislation that provides regulatory relief and flexibility for small businesses? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
B. Would you support the creation of a panel of small business owners to work with state agencies to ensure new rules and regulations are not unduly burdensome on small companies? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
C. Should small businesses be allowed to sue state agencies that don't comply with the process? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
D. Should agencies be required to review existing regulations every five years to determine their effectiveness and impact on both the public and private sectors? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Please detach here and fold survey in half to return by mail.

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Contact
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Email
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Online
www.in.gov/H36

Sign-up on my website
to receive email updates.



SURVEY INSIDE
Your input counts!

Post Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indiana
House of
Representatives

Representative
Terri Austin

Making Life Better for

HOOSSIERS



Working for you



- ✓ Lower prescription drug prices
- ✓ Affordable health insurance
- ✓ Streamlined, efficient government
- ✓ End outsourcing of Indiana jobs
- ✓ Simpler, less burdensome tax system
- ✓ Economic opportunity for workers

Please Place
your stamp
here.

Representative Terri Austin

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